

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1 to 49, the independent claims being Claims 1, 6, 11, 18, 25, 30 and 37 to 40. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 25, 26, 30, 32, 33 and 37 to 40 have been amended herein.

In the Official Action dated November 19, 2003, Claims 1 to 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,973,734 (Anderson).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, in formal matters, the specification has been amended as to matters of form, including English spelling, grammar, idiom, syntax and the like. No new matter has been added.

The rejection of the claims over the cited art respectfully is traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 25, 26, 30, 32, 33 and 37 to 40 have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel output control method, apparatus and medium for storing a control program for controlling an output control apparatus. The present invention is characterized in that aspect ratios of a thumbnail image and a main image in image data imaged by image input means are compared so that the thumbnail image is used as the display data to be displayed on display means in a case that the aspect ratios are the same, and that the main image is used as the display data in a case that the aspect ratios are different. That is, in the present invention, the aspect ratio of the thumbnail image is compared with the aspect ratio of a main image.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Anderson '734 patent relates to a method and apparatus for correcting aspect ratio in a camera graphical user interface, and discloses a operation method in which aspect ratios of a thumbnail image and a main image in an LCD display are compared, and a display image is generated by the comparison between the aspect ratios of the thumbnail image and a main image in the LCD display. However, Applicant submits that the Anderson '734 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-described features of the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that the Anderson '734 patent fails to disclose the feature in which the aspect ratio of a thumbnail image is compared with the aspect ratio of a main image *in the image data* (e.g., in image data imaged by image input means), as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

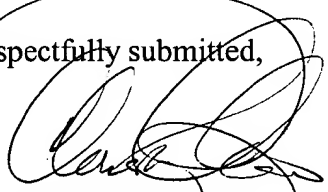
For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 18, 25, 30 and 37 to 40 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2 to 5, 7 to 10, 12 to 17, 19 to 24, 26 to 29 and 31 to 36 depend from Claims 1, 6, 11, 18, 25 and 30, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submit that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 32,078

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
CPW\gmc
DC_MAIN 160739v1